

Application Serial No. 09/777,987

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-100 are pending. Claims 1 is amended.

The claims stand rejected under Sections 112 and 101. The rejections are believed to be overcome by the amendment of claim 1 to clarify it as a method claim.

All rejections are respectfully traversed.

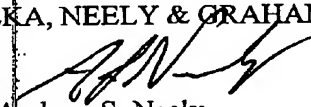
Applicant does not intend to surrender any range of equivalents under the Doctrine of Equivalents in regard to any claim limitation that appears in the final claims in any patent that may issue from this or any related application. Applicant expressly reserves the right to resort to the Doctrine of Equivalents for all limitations in regard to any future assertion of infringement of any claim, whether the limitation was present in an original claim or added by amendment a claim to or referenced in any argument to distinguish any claim from any prior art. All claims in any patent issued from this or any related application represent a statutorily presumed valid and patentable combination of structure and/or steps, and it is this combination which is intended to patentably distinguish from the prior art, not any particular limitation of any claim.

Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance is requested. In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time and request that the fee for the extension along with any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper be charged to our **Deposit Account No. 12-2355**.

Respectfully submitted,

LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C.

By:


Andrew S. Neely
Registration No. 28,979

P.O. Box 1871
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901
(865) 546-4305

***** CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION *****

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent Office on the date shown below to Fax No. 571.273.8300.

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